

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05

DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3234

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PASS ERDA GERMANTOWN FOR J YEVICK

PASS ERDA WASHINGTON FOR G HELFRICH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH LMFBR PROGRAM

REF: PARIS 8797; PARIS 9989, OECD PARIS 11451

1. RECENT DISCUSSIONS AT CEA BROUGHT OUT THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ON THE FRENCH LMFBR PROGRAM:

2. ONE-THIRD OF CEA LMFBR R&D BUDGET IS IN DIRECT SUPPORT
OF SUPER-PHENIX PROJECT ON SUCH ITEMS AS FULL SIZE TESTS
OF FUEL HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND BACKUP BORON SHUTDOWN
SYSTEM TESTS IN PHENIX.

3. ONE-THIRD OF THE CEA LMFBR BUDGET IS ON BASIC LONG
RANGE R&D STUDIES INCLUDING SUCH ITEMS AS IMPROVED HEAT
EXCHANGER CLEANUP METHODS, ADVANCED FUELS AND MATERIALS
DEVELOPMENT, AND SAFETY ISSUES.

4. THE REMAINING ONE-THIRD OF THE LMFBR R&D BUDGET IS
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EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE STUDIES OF THE SUPER-PHENIX
FOLLOWUP PLANT (SUPER-PHENIX II) AND SUPPORT OF THE
RAPSDIE TEST PROGRAM.

5. UNDER THE SUPER-PHENIX II PROGRAM AN IMPORTANT EFFORT
IS ON HETEROGENOUS CORE CONCEPTS INCLUDING CONSIDERATION
OF RADIAL AND RADIAL-AXIAL HETEROGENEITY. THEY BELIEVE

A BREEDING GAIN OF 0.29 TO 0.35 MAY BE ACHIEVABLE VERSUS
0.18 CALCULATED FOR SUPER-PHENIX AND 0.12 CALCULATED
AND MEASURED IN PHENIX.

6. PRESENT FRENCH PLANS CALL FOR ORDERING IX
PHENIX II ABOUT 1981-1982 AT A POWER LEVEL OF 1200-1800
MWE AND THEN FOLLOW WITH ONE LMFBR APPROXIMATELY EVERY
YEAR UTILIZING THE PLUTONIUM GENERATED FROM LWRS.

7. INITIAL DECISIONS ON POWER LEVEL AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
OF SUPER-PHENIX II WOULD BE REACHED IN ABOUT ONE YEAR.
EDF IS SETTING UP A GROUP WHICH WILL CONCERN ITSELF WITH
FUTURE LMFBR PLANS BEYOND SUPER-PHENIX I.

8. THE PHYSICS GROUP AT CADARACHE IS INVOLVED IN A LOW
LEVEL EFFORT ON PROLIFERATION ASPECTS AND ALTERNATE
CYCLES.

9. SITE WORK AT SUPER-PHENIX STARTED ABOUT SIX MONTHS
AGO AND CURRENTLY ABOUT 200 PEOPLE WORK THERE. LONG TERM
PROCUREMENT ITEMS ARE EITHER ORDERED OR ABOUT TO BE
PLACED ON ORDER INCLUDING THE TURBO-GENERATOR FROM
ANSALDO. THERE ARE SOME CEA FEARS THAT STRONG LOCAL
AGITATION NEAR THE CONSTRUCTION SITE BY ANTI-LMFBR GROUPS
MAY MATERIALIZE THIS SUMMER AND MAY CAUSE CONSTRUCTION
STOPPAGE FOR 2 OR 3 MONTHS.

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Message Attributes

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